



United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

December 3, 2023

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery
812-332-1850 www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church

December 3, 2023 First Sunday of Advent – Deacons Sunday



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

PRELUDE *The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light* – Handel
Conner McWhirter, tenor

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Candle of Hope – Vera & Gerrit Heitink

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 100)

Deacon Vera Heitink, liturgist

Liturgist: Wilderness living calls us to seek God in the voice that cries out,

People: **“Valleys will be lifted up and mountains will be made low,”**

Liturgist: to seek God in the sound of the one who speaks of peace,

People: **“The day of the Lord is coming,”**

Liturgist: to seek God in the loud noise that foretells what will be made new.

People: **In the wilderness, let us listen only for God’s voice.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

***Opening Hymn** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* #9



PASSING OF THE PEACE (liturgist & congregation)

May love and faithfulness meet as we gather together this day.

May righteousness and peace define who we are as a community of faith. Share signs of this hope and promise as we greet one another this day. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

MUSIC for MEDITATION *Comfort Ye My People* – Handel Connor McWhirter, tenor

Call to Confession

Surely God is our salvation. Have faith, and do not be afraid. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER of CONFESSION (In Unison with Liturgist)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

ASSURANCE of PARDON

Liturgist: Hear the good news: Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low. Now

the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.



Isaiah 40: 1-11 (Pew Bible p.551; Large Print p.1110) – Liturgist

John 10: 1-18 (Pew Bible p.819; Large Print p.1652) – Pastor

Pastor: The word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

SERMON *Comfort* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH— The Apostle’s Creed (traditional) led by Rev. Montgomery
I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Gloria Patri.*

#579

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



***Hymn of Preparation**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

#5

The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
 Invitation

Pastor: The shepherd invites us to join the flock of God.

People: At the shepherd’s table, all are fed with love.

Pastor: At the shepherd’s table, all are fed with grace.

Pastor: At the shepherd’s table, all are welcome.

People: This is the table where steadfast love and faithfulness meet. This is the table where justice, righteousness, and peace dance.

Pastor: This is the table where the world is invited to do the same.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion (In unison with the Pastor)

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory *The Coventry Carol* UPC Quartet

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

***Closing Hymn** *The Snow Lay on the Ground* #57

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

POSTLUDE *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Shea Henry Olivia McKenzie Kathleen Olds Rev. David Rosen Anita Steverson
Roby Lorimer Patty Lucas

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by the Colby's

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

Our military men and women around the world

The people of Ukraine The people of the Middle East

Our military men and women stationed around the world

The faculty and staff of Monroe County United Ministries

Agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY, THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION, PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT AND LOAN PROGRAM, PRESBYTERIAN PUBLISHING CORPORATION, THE BOARD OF PENSIONS, OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

United Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor – Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

(317) 260-7378 – pastor.upcbloomington@gmail.com

Secretary – Allen Pease – office (812) 332-1850; cell (812) 325-7849

Treasurer–Andy Hill andy@andyhill.us

Music Director – Benjamin Watkins – (864) 980-7731

benjamintaylorwatkins@gmail.com

Christian Education – Melanie Mathis-McBride – susieq_msm@yahoo.com